11/3/71

Dear Mary,

With a few minutes before supper, a few things:

The publishers have answered my letter on remaindering with a blanket dieal that they have don it or are now doing it. The young friend who reported it and has a receipt of r a copy purchased for $1.00 in a large NYC book store phoned me to day to tell me about an accident he survived, miraculously, when he totally-demoli hed car skilled through a guardrail and into a rivur. He also insists he is telling the truth. Crooked as I know ODD to be, I can't imagine them stupid enough to do this when I have contractual access to their books. Would it not be fraud? Yet I know this young man to be a concerned and truthful person. He would not lie, and he'd have to be fabricating to tell me what he has unless two bookstores, both very large, made very bade mistakes. So, I just don't know what to believe or where I stand. I have written ODD further and given them my source. I have also asked him to phone them. We 'll see, perhaps.

I have drafted a statement in opposition to Powell based on his representation of LHO before the WC. This is not an exaggeration. I have it in an unpublished staff document that is one of several pertinent ones in PHL. I have concentrated on two things (with the hierarchury of the entire ARA establishment inherent): Whaley and Rowletters. With Whaley part of the interrogation crew, the one in Dallas. Bit tight: he is one of Nixon's unnamed 19 other prospective nominees. My source is a first-hand one. I've had to be quiet.

Later tonight, when I may better separate what I intended to put on paper from what I did, I think I'll start going over this so Vil can type it. I'll show it to Jim, maybe Bud, if there is time, meaning if I can get to DC day after tomorrow and Vil can do it tomorrow. If not, possibly Monday, if that is not too late. I'll also probably give them a copy. It is an enlargement of what you'll find in WW under both names. It waives in Warren's sanctimonious lies (twice), Rankin's description of the ARA function and a few other things. If I can give Bud and Vi a clear enough copy, maybe they'll make copies for those who may want. If you(plural)want, please let me know. I can then make this an engagement or lend you a carbon for copying.

I had to do this in one day while doing other things, too. I have about 25 pp of WC testimony, an exhibit and one staff paper as exhibits. I deliberately left out a second staff paper because I have had relevant stuff declassified and want to take time to follow it when I can, without somebody not understanding it and misusing it.

The courtesy on Sprague is entirely unsatisfactory to me. Vin says it is no more than that he will submit his awful sick and stupid stuff for criticism first. I simply will not waste a minute on it. The only answer is for him to shut up, permanently. If he wants to do things, she should go back to where he started and did well, before he decided he wa a genius and understood what others didn't and began dreaming with his eyes and mouth open. I think all of that meaningless and self-destructive minor writing should have stopped long ago. It reaches too small an audience to have any prospect of doing any good. It further reduces credibility, so that when we have something to say, busy people will not take time, equating everything else with it.

In short, it hurts everybody but well-meaning Dick who has so destroyed his own reputation that it is beyond hurt now.

When you have finished with the contracts, etc., please, instead of returning them to me, send them to Bill Ohlhausen. Vin says he'll read and can perhaps make an NYC referral. Which, of course, means that I can win and collect nothing! I have learned about lawyers, alas. They are the ones who collect, only infrequently the clients. My experiences with the Edward Bennett Williams law firm is mind-blowing once they learned of my DC work. He is a close friend and the lawyer he assigned had been Warren's law clerk. Can you image what they did to us?

Best to all,